

SPONDYLIASPINAE SCHWARZ, 1898 (HEMIPTERA, PSYLLIDAE) :
PROPOSED VALIDATION OF THE SUBFAMILY NAME. Z.N.(S). 1507

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The subfamily SPONDYLIASPINAE was established by Schwarz (1898) with type-genus *Spondylaspis* Signoret, 1879, for which at that time no type-species had been designated. Schwarz proposed a redefinition of this genus on the basis of material before him which he referred to it, and in establishing the subfamily it was clear that he was interpreting its type-genus in this sense. Examination of Signoret's type-material by Taylor (1960) has shown that his three species of *Spondylaspis* must be referred to two different genera, neither of which corresponds to Schwarz's interpretation. Taylor selected *S. bancrofti* Signoret, 1879, as type-species of *Spondylaspis* and erected the new genus *Glycaspis* Taylor, 1960, to accommodate the species that Schwarz had referred to *Spondylaspis* and others since described. Thus the nominal subfamily SPONDYLIASPINAE was based on a misidentified type-genus, and under the Code the case must be referred to the International Commission for decision.

2. It should be noted that the genus *Spondylaspis*, as now defined by the type-designation of Taylor, is currently regarded as belonging to the same taxonomic subfamily as *Glycaspis* Taylor. Moreover, *Spondylaspis* occupies a more central position in the subfamily than *Glycaspis*, which is one of its most highly divergent genera. The name SPONDYLIASPINAE is well established in the literature, so that there would seem to be no grounds for replacing it by a new name based on the name of an atypical genus. The principal purpose of this application is to seek from the Commission, under its plenary powers, a ruling that Schwarz (1898) is to be deemed to have correctly identified the genus *Spondylaspis* in establishing the subfamily SPONDYLIASPINAE, and the placing of both names on the appropriate Official Lists. Details of the case are as follows :—

3. In 1879 Signoret (*Ann. Soc. ent. Fr.* (5) 9, *Bull.*: lxxxvi) erected the genus *Spondylaspis* for three species of PSYLLIDAE, which he described from the nymphal covering (or "lerp") and, in one, from the nymph itself. He wrongly placed the genus in the ALEUTRODIDAE.

4. In 1896 Maskell (*Trans. N.Z. Inst.* 38 : 411) having some of Signoret's specimens, stated that *Spondylaspis* was congeneric with some of the psyllids described by Dobson (1851, *Pap. Roy. Soc. Tasm.* 1 : 235–241).

5. Schwarz (1898, *Proc. ent. Soc. Wash.* 4 : 66–73) described a species which he misidentified as *Psylla eucalypti* Dobson, 1851 (*loc. cit.*) (see Taylor, 1960, p. 385) and placed in *Spondylaspis* Signoret. This species formed the basis of his redefinition of *Spondylaspis* and essentially, therefore, of his subfamily SPONDYLIASPINAE. Until 1960 all authors followed Schwarz's interpretation of the genus. Taylor (1960, p.385) places both *eucalypti* Dobson and Schwarz's (still unnamed) species in his new genus *Glycaspis*, of which the type-species is *Aphalara flavilabris* Froggatt, 1903, (*Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S.W.* 28 : 318).

6. Heslop-Harrison (1949, *Ann. Mag. nat. Hist.* (12) 2 : 647) stated that the subfamily SPONDYLIASPINAE had not been formally defined by Schwarz, and

concluded, quite incorrectly, that therefore it "cannot be considered as existing". In 1954 (*Ann. Mag. nat. Hist.* (12) 7 : 522) he himself defined the subfamily, retaining the name SPONDYLIASPINAE, but there is no question of this name dating as from Heslop-Harrison.

7. Taylor's action (1960, *Aust. J. Zool.* 8 : 384) in selecting *S. bancrofti* Signoret as the type-species of *Spondylaspis* was taken in the light of the fact that selection of either of the other two originally included species would have invalidated the well known genus *Cardiaspina* Crawford, 1911 (*Pomona Coll. J. Ent.* 3 : 632), for these species are congeneric with its type-species *Cardiaspis artifex* Schwarz, 1898 (*Proc. ent. Soc. Wash.* 4 : 72). However, the selection of *bancrofti* involved the invalidation of the more recent genus *Scenitopsylla* Tuthill and Taylor, 1955 (*Aust. J. Zool.* 3 : 241), for this species is congeneric with its type-species *Cardiaspis plicatuloides* Froggatt, 1900 (*Proc. linn. Soc. N.S.W.* 25 : 284).

8. The action that the International Commission is requested to take is therefore :—

- (1) To rule that Schwarz (1898) is to be deemed to have correctly identified the genus *Spondylaspis* Signoret, 1879, in establishing his subfamily SPONDYLIASPINAE ;
- (2) to place the name SPONDYLIASPINAE Schwarz, 1898 (type-genus *Spondylaspis* Signoret, 1879) on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology ;
- (3) to place the following names on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology :—
 - (a) *Spondylaspis* Signoret, 1879 (gender : feminine), type-species, by selection by Taylor (1960) : *Spondylaspis bancrofti* Signoret, 1879 ;
 - (b) *Glycaspis* Taylor, 1960 (gender : feminine), type-species, by original designation : *Aphalara flavilabris* Froggatt, 1903 ;
 - (c) *Cardiaspina* Crawford, 1911 (gender : feminine), type-species, by original designation, *Cardiaspis artifex* Schwarz, 1898 ;
- (4) to place the following names on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology :—
 - (a) *bancrofti* Signoret, 1879, as published in the binomen *Spondylaspis bancrofti* (type-species, by selection by Taylor (1960), of *Spondylaspis* Signoret, 1879) ;
 - (b) *flavilabris* Froggatt, 1903, as published in the binomen *Aphalara flavilabris* (type-species, by original designation, of *Glycaspis* Taylor, 1960) ;
 - (c) *artifex* Schwarz, 1898, as published in the binomen *Cardiaspis artifex* (type-species, by original designation, of *Cardiaspina* Crawford, 1911) ;
 - (d) *plicatuloides* Froggatt, 1900, as published in the binomen *Cardiaspis plicatuloides* (type-species, by original designation, of *Scenitopsylla* Tuthill and Taylor, 1955) ;
 - (e) *eucalypti* Dobson, 1851, as published in the binomen *Psylla eucalypti*.